

UPDATE



# neurosurgery

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Neurosurgeons Urge Congress to Take Action to Prevent Medicare Cuts Before the End of the Year**  
*Absent legislative action, physicians and other health care professionals face cuts of nearly 10% in 2022*

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) joined leading national health care organizations urging Congress to prevent steep Medicare payment cuts in 2022. Neurosurgical care faces overall payment cuts of nearly 10% at a time when the nation’s health care system continues to be stressed by the pandemic. The reductions are partly driven by the expiration of the 3.75% payment adjustment included in last year’s Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. In addition, the moratorium on the 2% Medicare sequestration pay cuts expires at the end of this year, and a 4% Medicare payment cut triggered by the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 will also take effect in 2022.

The health care groups’ statement reads as follows:

Physicians and other health care providers have taken care of millions of Medicare patients since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to provide world-class patient care. The continuing resolution language released today fails our nation’s healthcare heroes by allowing a massive Medicare cut to go into effect. Many in Congress are blaming the other side of the aisle. Our organizations urge Members of Congress to put partisanship aside and work to protect patient access to care. Failure to prevent these cuts will strain our health care system and jeopardize patient access to medically necessary services.

In October, a bipartisan group of 247 lawmakers urged congressional leadership to stop the Medicare cuts before the end of the year. Earlier this week, 271 national and state organizations sent a letter urging congressional leadership to address this important issue before January 1st. The 247 lawmakers and the 271 organizations are working to protect patient access to essential medical care. The continuing resolution language released today ignores this critical need.

Our organizations continue to urge Congress to stop the Medicare cuts from going into effect before the end of the year.

American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Medical Association

American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

“America’s neurosurgeons appreciate those who are working to prevent these harmful cuts, particularly the physician members of Congress who continue to offer constructive solutions,” said John K. Ratliff, MD, FAANS, a practicing neurosurgeon at Stanford University and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. “Millions of seniors rely on the Medicare program, and Congressional leaders must take action before the end of the year to ensure that our patients have timely access to care when they need it most,” Dr. Ratliff added.

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*The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit [www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org) or [www.cns.org](http://www.cns.org), read our blog [www.neurosurgeryblog.org](http://www.neurosurgeryblog.org), follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) or connect with us on [Facebook](https://facebook.com).*